

February 25th 1873.
TWENTY - FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1873.



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PRESS OF CHARLES F. BESSOM,

NO. 99 MUNROE STREET.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

In submitting their annual report, the Committee would express their gratitude to God for His preserving care and goodness during another year, as no prevailing sickness has interrupted the progress of our schools, nor has a scholar been removed by death. We congratulate the citizens of the town upon the general prosperity of the schools, and commend their generous liberality for the purposes of education. It is a wise policy that provides for the education of the masses, as it is the only way that the blessings of civilization can be perpetuated. There is no surer way to advance the prosperity of our town, and at the same time insure the welfare of the people, than to secure for our children the means of a good moral and intellectual development. In a republic like our own a good education is indispensable to the grand results of human liberty. Civilization can make no progress when eliminated from learning, than a plant can flourish when uprooted from the soil.

Men are generally what they are from early training and example ; therefore a wise statesmanship will see to it that the morning of life shall prove a seed time for a future harvest of national prosperity. Education at the present day is the sure road to distinction among us, and with the many facilities afforded the youth of our land for mental culture, there can be no excuse for the individual, who, on account of ignorance, is suffered to remain in comparative obscurity. An advanced state of civilization cannot be founded upon ignorance no more than a fruitful harvest can be expected without cultivation. The true wealth of a town does not consist in real estate and personal property, but in her citizens educated and trained for the duties and responsibilities of life.

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS.

It gives us pleasure to state that the schools have made commendable progress during the year, and the average attendance has been in advance of last year. The order in the schools has been commendable, the discipline has been administered without partiality, while obedience to the rules has been complied with to the general satisfaction of all concerned. The examinations were conducted almost wholly by the Committee, and gave good evidence of devoted, faithful

labor on the part of the teachers, and of careful study on the part of the scholars. The examinations of the schools of the town were occasions of rare interest to the parents of the children and the friends of education, as the crowded state of the schools invariably demonstrated. It is to be hoped, however, that the parents and friends will not defer their visits until the close of the school year, but that they will use their privilege to visit the school, where they may do more to encourage both teacher and scholars than they could by being present at the close.

The lack of interest on the part of parents is the greatest drawback to our school system. Should parents make it a rule to visit the school at least once each term, much of the irregular attendance would be done away, while a larger sympathy with the teacher would be the necessary result. All that some parents know of a teacher is the information obtained from the child, and this very rarely contains the data on which to base a correct opinion, while the information in reference to the progress of the child in its studies is also procured from the same source. Let there be a good understanding between parents and teachers and much of the care and anxiety of educators will be removed.

KEEPING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL HOURS.

There is a growing disaffection on the part of many parents against keeping scholars after school hours, yet it is considered next to impossible by teachers to keep school without this prerogative. There may be such a thing as carrying this article of discipline too far, and thus increase the evil it was meant to cure. The Creator has not supplied every mind with an equal amount of ability, and for a teacher to demand equally perfect lessons from all, or the lack must be made up by staying after school hours, is, to say the least, discouraging, and, when often resorted to, begets in the child indifference to both teacher and school. It is here that the good judgment of the educator is manifest, and where kindness shown to the pupil is appreciated. If partiality is to be shown anywhere in the school, let it be for the scholars who do their best and then fail, and it will not have been bestowed in vain. When scholars can do well, and yet do not, then let discipline exert its due influence upon them. Scholars should not be kept in school many minutes after twelve o'clock, as it is a great annoyance to their parents, who, after preparing the dinner, are obliged to wait until their temper gains what the dinner loses; nor should they be kept longer than thirty minutes after the regular time of closing the school for the day; and never to be wholly de-

prived the privilege of going out at recess. We throw out these hints for the benefit of teachers, not as regulations, but as advice gleaned from past experience in school matters.

READING.

Good reading is one of the primary elements of a good education, and is to the individual a source of rich enjoyment. A good reader, with an interesting book, will not be without a fair share of satisfaction, while the habit secures to its possessor a rich stock of information upon almost every subject. This branch of learning is too often neglected, and as often undervalued in our school system. While we would not advocate that the principles of elocution should be taught as a science in our common schools, we would desire to have every reader understand the subject of the lesson read so as to give the sense of the writer. How interesting it is to listen to a good reader, one who enters into the subject with interest and feeling, placing the emphasis where it belongs, and so managing the pauses as to give to the whole its due effect. However we may value other branches of learning, to us good reading is that which gives value to all the rest.

SPELLING.

Good spelling is demanded of every individual who has enjoyed the advantages of our schools, yet there is no branch of learning that shows a lack of thorough training equal to this, as well as a defect in the manner of our observation. It is the opinion of a learned educator that good readers and spellers are made quite early in life, as after ten years of age the habit of poor reading and bad spelling are rarely, if ever, remedied in the labors of future years. If this position is correct, then the responsibility rests upon primary school training to adapt the eye and the ear to the appearance and sounds of words. There is something wrong in the mode of imparting instruction in this branch of our common school education which causes us to look with favor upon the sentiments of a late writer, who has said that a child should be taught how to analyze words as a botanist analyzes flowers, which clearly illustrates the work of an instructor in this department. We have seen many scholars in our schools, when called upon to spell words orally, make but few mistakes, but on committing the same words to writing would put to the blush both themselves and their instructors. There is a hint here to teachers to have some daily exercise in writing words which would prove a good drill for all grades of schools.

HIGHER STUDIES.

There is a desire on the part of both children and parents to advance farther in their studies than either the health or the ability will allow, and if the pupil can only stay in the class the matter of qualification is with them a secondary object and of minor importance. It is wise not to advance faster in the road of knowledge than we can define our way and become familiar with the objects that present themselves to us in our progress. In this way we become familiar with the ground passed over, while an ever-increasing desire to investigate what is new precludes the possibility of discouragement ; for it is with learning as with making fortunes—we must hasten slowly.

PREMATURE GRADUATION.

This is another difficulty to be guarded against. Although our Grammar School course is quite limited, yet a great number of scholars leave school before completing this course. Now, when we consider the expense and labor invested, we are almost discouraged with the poor returns from such an outlay. After a pupil has entered the Grammar School, one year's study in the subjects taught here is worth two years of previous study in the preparatory department; and for the purposes of life, both as regards success

and usefulness, it will be found of incalculable value. Because a boy can earn a little money, that is not a sufficient reason why he should be deprived of an education; for if we would view this matter in the light of dollars and cents, it would be the part of wisdom to keep him in school for a reasonable period, as the future would prove it a paying operation,

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE.

There has been much said and written on the subject of absences from school, and, although a trite subject, it is not wanting in importance. We have delivered many a homily during the year to boys and girls who sought excuses from us for this thing; and, although this year's report is in advance of the last, yet there is much more to be accomplished in this direction. There should be some absolutely necessary cause for detaining a scholar from school. The injury is twofold, first to the child itself and also to the school. There is nothing that renders school so forbidding as this, and makes study, of all things distasteful, the most to be dreaded. Let parents see to it that their children are in school when well, and it would not be long before the habit would be acquired for constant attendance, and then the difficulty would be to keep them away from school.

APPROPRIATIONS.

We commend the wise and liberal policy of our citizens for the purposes of education, and honor their action for the future prosperity of the town in thus providing for the intellectual culture of the future upholders of our dear-bought and highly-prized institutions. However heavy we may tax ourselves for educational privileges, it will be found to pay, not only in a money value and in the respect of others, but in the refinement, grace and virtue of our sons and daughters.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

P. C. Porter, A. M., Principal, Miss E. J. Hadley, Assistant. Examination, February 21st, 1873.

The examination of this school compared favorably with that of former years, and showed a good degree of application on the part of the scholars; while the advanced class did themselves and their teacher much credit in Natural Philosophy and Algebra. We were sorry to lose the services of Miss Clara W. Woodbury, but were highly favored in securing Miss E. J. Hadley, who has labored faithfully and well in maintaining the interest and character of this department.

This school has been the source of much anxiety to the Committee, from the position it occupies when

compared with the other schools of the town, because it is here that greater results are looked for, and where the stimulus for higher attainments in knowledge is acquired. A previous committee, in their annual report of four years ago, expressed the desire to raise the grade of this school by retaining the advanced classes from year to year until the object should be secured; but this expectation is no nearer fulfillment now than it was four years ago. After a careful investigation of the whole matter, a change of teachers in the Principal's department was decided on, and when the appointment of teachers for the year was made, the Principal's appointment was not renewed, nor was it at any subsequent meeting of the board during the school year. In view of what the Principal had done for the school, as well as the interest felt for him both as a friend and citizen, we had hoped to spare his feelings by avoiding the necessity of a formal dismissal. The Principal called upon the Chairman of the Committee in reference to his appointment, when the statement of a desire for a change of masters was made to him, with the remark that we would continue his services, if it would be any accommodation to him, until the close of the winter term of the school, if he would then resign his position and spare the Committee the painful duty of a formal dismissal. We stated to him that it was the opinion of the Com-

mittee that the Grammar School was not accomplishing all that was desired, and with this opinion he very readily coincided. He expressed himself satisfied with the arrangement, and so the matter rested until some time during the fall term, when he made inquiry of another member of the Committee to know whether he could remain until the close of the winter term? when, on being assured on this point, he again expressed himself as satisfied.

Toward the close of the winter term the wife of the Principal called upon a member of the Committee to see if the services of the Principal could not be continued through the spring term, and this request was acted on at the next meeting of the Board, when it was then decided not to change the previous action of the committee, and due notice was given to her accordingly. About one week from this action steps were taken to procure a Principal for the Grammar School, when Gilman C. Fisher, A. M., was elected by the unanimous vote of the Board.

We should not have published the above, in the annual report, had there not been many wrong impressions abroad in reference to the Committee's action; and our sole object now, in its publication, is to state to the public, whose servants we are, our action in this matter.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Miss Clara Colcord, Teacher. Examination, February 19th, P. M., 1873.

This school has shown commendable progress, both in the matter of discipline and in diligent study during the year. There is an admirable drill carried on in this school through every recitation that makes study a delight. We have heard much said about the long lessons and hard study of the scholars, but we are led to believe that the teacher works the hardest herself. The work of teaching is to her a delight, which makes the school-room beautiful even amid the storms of winter; yet we hope she will favor herself where she can, and not use up the candlestick before the candle is consumed. The examination was highly enjoyed, and was perfectly satisfactory to all present.

WEST END SCHOOL.

Miss Mary E. Boynton, Teacher. Examination, February 20th, P. M., 1873.

Miss Boynton is a successful teacher, and knows how to keep school. She manages to get a sight of work out of her scholars, and is never satisfied unless they are learning something new. Her school has been quite large during the year, numbering at one

time seventy-nine scholars. She has been assisted during a part of the time by her sister, Miss S. L. Boynton, who has relieved her of part of her labors. Although the school was removed to the Town Hall while the school building was being enlarged, yet from the character of the examination it could not be perceived that the children had been disturbed, or put to any inconvenience. Hereafter this school will not be so laborious to the teacher, as it will in the future be a graded school, making the second one in town. How pleasant it will be for the little ones to have a nice school-room and a teacher all to themselves, and not be obliged to listen to the long round of recitations which they do not understand. The examination of this school was a season of profit and pleasure, and was well improved, judging from the crowd that could hardly find standing room within hearing distance of the exercises.

FARMS SCHOOL.

Miss Sarah Palmer, Teacher. Examination, February 19th, A. M., 1873.

We were pleased with the evidences of progress in this school, as well as with the neatness and decorum of the scholars. Miss Palmer has worked hard and faithfully to bring this school up to the grade, and, we

are pleased to state, that it bids fair to outrival the rest. Our schools in the centre must look well to their laurels or this one will carry off the honors. One secret of this school's success lies in the love that exists between teacher and scholars which has united the whole neighborhood to labor for its advancement. We were well pleased with the examination, and felt that the year had been well improved, and the labor expended not in vain.

BEACH SCHOOL.

Miss Ellen Ledyard, Teacher. Examination, February 20th, A. M., 1873.

We are pleased to record a commendable improvement in the several classes of this school. The amount of care and labor demanded here is very great, as the school is large, numbering fifty eight scholars, with classes too numerous to do justice to them all. The teacher has done admirably, and has prepared a large class for the Grammar School, all of whom passed a creditable examination. The order and discipline of this school have been maintained without friction or partiality, good nature prevailing over every difficulty. The teacher is hopeful and cheerful, which gives to the school-room its greatest attraction. The

examination of this school passed off creditably to both teacher and scholars.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Miss Charlotte F. Mott, Teacher. Examination, February 18th, P. M., 1873.

We are at a loss how to express our appreciation of this school. The children outdid anything expected of them, both in their lessons and in public speaking, while their singing was sweeter than the birds of spring. It was very evident that love and patience, on the part of the teacher, had not been expended in vain; nor had the hours in this school-room passed wearily away. What, with singing, and exercise, and recitations, and amusements, education was here a pleasure rather than a wearisome task. The examination of this school will be a bright spot in the memory of the Committee, and to all who were so fortunate as to be present on the occasion.

At the close of the exercises three bright little girls presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers to each member of the Committee, after having made a pretty presentation speech, and certainly nothing could have been given us that we should value higher than beautiful fresh flowers from the innocent hands of childhood. May fair flowers ever bloom in life's pathway for them and for all the dear youth of our schools.

INCREASE OF SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

We congratulate the citizens of the town on the increase of school accommodation provided by enlarging the Pine Street School-House. By a small outlay this school building has been raised and another school room added, equal in every respect to the former, now seated and prepared for a Primary Department to the West End School. The increasing population of this section of the town called for an increase of school accommodation, and after carefully surveying the whole field, this was considered the best thing to be done; and now that the building is completed, we feel satisfied that, instead of an injury, it is a decided improvement to the building itself, besides doubling its capacity for school purposes.

The Committee would recommend an increase of school accommodation for the Beach School, as the building is now too small for its present purposes.

REPAIRS.

Repairs have been made as recommended in the last year's report of the Committee, and our school-houses now are in fair condition, being supplied with all that is necessary for the purposes of education. Whatever improvements may be necessary in the future to

be made upon our school buildings, we are certain they will be cheerfully complied with.

The Committee are grateful to the people for their sympathy and encouragement in their labors, and are thankful for the aid that has been extended to them in carrying forward the work of education. We have ever been ready to take advice and give due deference to the opinions of others ; and while our town is beautiful in location, and the air is pure and exhilarating, let the educational advantages do for the people what nature has done for their surroundings. With gratitude to God for his blessing upon the labors of the past, may He continue his blessings to the children and prepare them for usefulness and happiness in their future vocations in life.

Very truly yours,

JOHN CAPEN,	} Committee.
WM. B. CHASE,	
JOHN H. CROSMAN,	

COURSE OF STUDY.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Reading.—Through Hillard's Third Reader.

Arithmetic.—Through Walton's Primary.

Geography.—Forty pages of Hill's Our World.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

Reading.—Hillard's Fourth, and half of Intermediate.

Arithmetic.—Walton's, through Division, Intellectual, through twenty-nine sections.

Geography.—Through Warren's Primary.

Spelling.—One hundred and thirty-four lessons.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

ASSISTANT'S CLASSES.

Reading.—Hillard's intermediate, finished selection in fifth.

Arithmetic.—Walton's, through Compound Numbers.

Grammar.—Greene's, to Syntax ; Intellectual, finished.

Geography.—Warren's Common School, commenced.

Spelling.—To lesson one hundred and seventy-eight.

PRINCIPAL'S CLASSES.

Reading.—Hillard's Fifth Reader.

Arithmetic.—Walton's, through Cube Root.

Geography.—Finished.

Spelling.—Selected spelling and definitions.

History.—Anderson's United States.

Grammar.—Greene's, finished.

The advanced class will pursue studies that may be prescribed for them by the Committee and Principal. It is their intention to introduce those studies that will be most useful to a majority of the class.

SCHEDULE OF SCHOOLS, 1872—73.

Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Teachers.	Salary.
Grammar	108	{ P. C. Porter, A. M.,	\$1200
		{ E. J. Hadley,	450
Intermediate,	43	Clara Colcord,	450
West End,	79	{ Mary E. Boynton,	450
		{ Sarah L. Boynton.	69
Beach,	60	Ellen Ledyard,	450
Farms,	39	Sarah Palmer,	450
Primary,	56	Charlotte F. Mott,	400
	<hr/> 385		<hr/> \$3919

STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS, 1872—1873.

	TERM.	Grammar.	Intermediate.	West End.	Beach.	Farms.	Primary.	Total.
Whole number of Scholars.	Spring,	108	43	57	52	28	44	332
	Summer,	81	34	66	53	30	47	311
	Fall,	93	39	73	59	39	56	359
	Winter,	94	38	79	60	31	52	354
Average attendance of Scholars	Spring,	89	39	45	42	19	40	274
	Summer,	60	30	58	48	20	37	253
	Fall,	74	35	60	48	31	40	288
	Winter,	77	35	71	49	26	45	303
Percentage of attendance of Scholars.	Spring, .....	.82	.90	.77	.80	.71	.90	.81
	Summer, .....	.74	.88	.88	.90	.67	.70	.79
	Fall, .....	.79	.80	.82	.81	.86	.71	.79
	Winter, .....	.82	.92	.90	.80	.85	.86	.85
Over 15 years of age,	.....	12						

REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Regulations common to all the Public Schools, under the immediate superintendence of the School Committee.

SECT. 1. The teachers will be at their school-rooms fifteen minutes, and in stomy or cold weather, twenty minutes before school time.

SECT. 2. The school hours will be, from the first Monday in April to the first Monday in November, for the morning, from half-past eight to twelve o'clock; and for the afternoon, from half-past one to four o'clock; and from the first Monday in November to the first Monday in April, for the morning, from nine to twelve o'clock, and for the afternoon, from half-past one to half-past four o'clock.

SECT. 3. They are not to dismiss their schools, or change the school hours, except by permission of the Committee, nor must any recess exceed fifteen minutes.

SECT. 4. The morning exercises of the school shall commence with the reading of the Bible; and it is recommended that the reading be followed with some devotional service.

SECT. 5. For every absence the scholar shall bring a written excuse from parent or guardian, and the teacher shall ascertain whether the absence was really necessary or not; if not, the teacher shall make a record of the absence. If any scholar shall be thus absent unnecessarily three times in any term, then the teacher shall give notice in writing or personally to the parent or guardian that such absence twice more will expel the scholar from school. If, disregarding this, the scholar is absent five times in one term. he or she shall be expelled from the school, and shall not be again admitted until the parent or guardian shall obtain from the Committee a written permit.

SECT. 6. A written excuse must also be brought by each pupil for tardiness, or dismission before the appointed hours for leaving; and tardiness beyond five minutes shall be considered a violation of school hours, and shall subject the delinquent to such penalty as the nature of the case may require.

SECT. 7. There shall be a recess of ten minutes each half day, for every school; and for every primary school there may be an extra recess each half day.

SECT. 8. The instructor shall exercise a kind and parental discipline. If there is direct and violent opposition to the authority of the teacher, or continual disobedience in a pupil, or improper interference of parents, such as to render his example permanently injurious, it shall be the duty of the teacher to report such pupil to the Committee, who alone shall have power to expel from the privileges of the school, and to readmit, evidence being given of repentance and amendment.

SECT. 9. No pupil having been in attendance at one school shall be admitted into another without previous consent of the Committee.

SECT. 10. Each teacher is directed not to receive any children, as pupils, whose residence is out of town, and if any are now in attendance, they are now to be dismissed. Neither is any child other than a pupil to be allowed temporarily in any school.

SECT. 11. In case of difficulty in the discharge of their official duties, or when they may desire any temporary indulgence, the instructors shall apply to the Committee for advice and direction.

SECT. 12. No studies shall be pursued in any of the schools nor any text-books used or introduced, except those authorized by the Committee.

SECT. 13. The statute in regard to the faithful keeping of the school register is to be observed. And it is directed that this register be kept at the school-room, for inspection of the Committee.

SECT. 14. Whenever the necessary school-books are not furnished by the parents or guardian, on the written request of the teacher, it shall be his duty to send such pupil with a written order to the town agent, specifying the name of the book required, the child's name, and the parent's or guardian's name.

SECT. 15. No subscription or advertisement shall be introduced into any public school without the consent of the Committee.

SECT. 16. Scholars are not to be admitted to any public school, without a certificate from some member of the School Committee.

SECT. 17. Any damage done to the school-house, grounds or premises, must be paid for by the parent or guardian of the child or children doing it. The "General Statutes of Massachusetts" enact, that all such wilful and wanton damages shall be punished "by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding one year.

SECT. 18. Scholars are not to be admitted into the schools until five years of age, nor until vaccinated.

SECT. 19. The above rules are to be *strictly observed*.

TEACHERS APPOINTED.

Vacancies shall be filled as soon as may be after the resignation of any teacher or teachers, but the annual re-election of all the teachers shall occur during the month of July, and their salaries be fixed.

Teachers will be required to give two weeks' notice of intended resignation, otherwise be liable to a deduction of pay for the time less than that; and the Committee will be subject to the same regulation.

The School Registers shall be kept in correct order, and be delivered, at the close of each term, to the Committee, before any bill for services will be approved.

Annual examinations of the public schools shall take place in the month of February.

J. H. CROSMAN, *Secretary*.

CALENDAR.

SPRING TERM.—Commences first Monday in March, and ends Friday, May 16th.

SUMMER TERM.—Commences first Monday in June, and ends Friday, July 25th.

FALL TERM.—Commences first Monday in September, and ends Friday, November 21st.

WINTER TERM.—Commences first Monday in December, and ends Friday, February 20th.

HOLIDAYS.

The following holidays will be allowed. viz :— Saturdays, Days of Public Fasting, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Twenty-Second of February, and May Day, and one day (to be determined by a majority vote of the teachers) to attend The Essex County Teachers' Convention. And no change in the regular days of keeping school is to be made, without previous consultation with the Committee of the school.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Reading.—Bible ; Hillard's Readers.

Mathematics.—Walton's Written, Intellectual, and Primary ; Arithmetic ; Greenleaf's Algebra.

Writing.—Payson, Dunton, and Scribner's Penmanship and Book-keeping.

Geography.—Warren's Common School ; Warren's Primary ; Hill's Our World.

History.—Anderson's School History.

Grammar.—Greene's.

Natural Philosophy.—Rolfe and Gillet's Elements.

Physiology.—Cutter's Elements.

Geometry.—Davis's.





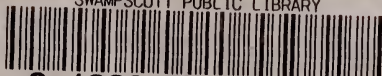


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